

Could Jesus change Passover?

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Chapter 1

It has been suggested by some ministers that Yeshua (a.k.a. - Jesus) *changed* the Passover. This is applied to everything from what food is eaten on Passover night, to adding a new commandment of washing feet and even changing the night this meal is observed. Much speculation and misunderstanding on this subject exists. Rather than dive into Biblical proofs on exactly what the Bible actually instructs concerning when and how this commanded appointment with God is to be kept – let's first answer this all important question:

Could Jesus change the Passover?

If Jesus (a.k.a. - Yeshua) could change the Passover, then there is little need to even read the Bible that existed in His time – the Torah – as much of it now may be considered obsolete. New Testament Bible becomes *the* source for all pertinent Biblical knowledge today, while the Old Testament is relegated down to only a Biblical history source.

The Old Testament was the ONLY Bible existing in 30 C.E.. This is the only Bible that Jesus had to read and teach from. These are the scriptures He based His ministry and His life on. Did He (or does anyone) have the authority to change the Bible? Let's open up our Bibles and answer this all important question! All verses listed are NASB version unless noted. יהוה ' has been translated Yehovah* to replace the Old English title "LORD".

Deuteronomy 4:2

You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, **nor** take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of Yehovah* your God which I command you.

Deuteronomy 12:32

Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do;
you shall not add to nor take away from it.

Proverbs 30:6

Do not add to His words Or He will reprove you, and **you will be proved a liar**.

The above verses state that it is illegal to add to or take away from *any* commandments of God. This means that if Yeshua altered the Passover in any way from “as commanded”, then he is guilty of BREAKING Gods commandments. Specifically, Jesus would be guilty of violating Deuteronomy 4:2, Deuteronomy 12:32 and by extension **He would be a liar** per Proverbs 30:6. Changing the Passover violates the Law by adding to or taking from Gods commandments.

Did Jesus ever violate *any* Biblical laws *at any time* ?

2 Corinthians 5:21

He made **Him who knew no sin** to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1 John 3:4 (KJV)

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law:
for **sin is the transgression of the law**.

The first verse shows that Jesus “**knew no sin**” – Jesus never sinned. The second verse gives us the Biblical definition of “sin” as “the transgression of the law”. Yeshua never broke one Biblical commandment. Jesus never transgressed **Deuteronomy 4:2**, **Deuteronomy 12:32** or **Proverbs 30:6**. Jesus never changed the Passover. It is that simple.

Could Jesus change Passover?

Chapter 2

If a person believes they are doing the right thing, they will defend their actions vigorously. Religious matters are especially defended with emotional fervor. Many people believe that by reenacting the Biblical “last supper” they are somehow keeping a “New Testament” Passover. This is often defended by statements like “Jesus did it, so it must be right!”. Rather than present Biblical proofs for or against this idea, let's ask a more basic question. What did Yeshua *eat* at the Last Supper meal?

What kind of bread was at the Last Supper?

This is a very simple question. It can easily be answered with a Bible and concordance with Greek & Hebrew dictionaries. This is not an issue one needs to become emotionally charged over – it's just a matter of “proving all things”. So what did the men have for supper that evening?

The Hebrew language Biblically uses one word for bread:

Strong's #3899 – לֶחֶם – lechem - food, especially bread, or grain.

And one Hebrew word is used for unleavened bread:

Strong's #4682 - מַצָּה – matstsah - an unfermented cake or loaf.

From this we know that Passover uses - מַצָּה – matstsah.

The Greek language Biblically uses one word for bread
Strong's #740 – **ar'-tos** - bread (as raised) or a loaf.

And one Greek word is used for unleavened bread:
Strong's #106 – **ad'-zoo-mos** - unleavened, unleavened (bread).

Now lets go to the last supper...

Matthew 26:26

While they were eating, Jesus took some **bread <artos>** , and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

Mark 14:22

While they were eating, He took some **bread <artos>**, and after a blessing He broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is My body."

Luke 22:19a

And when He had taken some **bread <artos>** and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you;

John 13:18

"I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen;
but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled,
'HE WHO EATS MY **BREAD <artos>** HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.'

Here is the verse Jesus quoted from in John 13:18:

Psalm 41:9

Even my close friend in whom I trusted,
Who ate my **bread <lechem>**, Has lifted up his heel against me.

These verses show raised bread eaten at the Last Supper. Yeshua did **not** say to symbolize Him with unleavened bread. **Unleavened bread** is the "**bread of affliction**"-(**Deuteronomy 16:3**). The "*Show Bread*" - לחם פנים - **paniym lechem** - symbolizes Messiah - the raised "**bread of life**". The Last Supper tells us to keep this fact in mind at our group meals. It's that simple.

Could Jesus change Passover?

Chapter 3

It has been suggested that Yeshua *changed* the Passover. To assume this would carry implications that one not well grounded in Torah may not immediately be aware of. Before we make hasty conclusions, let's do our homework. Let's let Gods Word show us information that we really need. Lets find out:

When is PASSOVER?

Before going into detail about the Passover, God first sets the framework for **His** reckoning of time.

Exodus 12:2

This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the **first month of the year** to you.

Month = Strong's# 2320 כֶּדֶשׁ kho'-desh = the new moon.

This first month is to be called "**Aviv**" -
Examples include **Exodus 13:4, 23:15, 34:18 & Deuteronomy 16:1.**

"**Aviv**" describes the ripening stage of the barley crop.

Exodus 9:31

(Now the flax and the barley were ruined,
for the barley was in the ear and the flax was in bud.
But the wheat and the spelt were not ruined, for they ripen late.)

While the barley is in a ripening stage & the wheat is yet grass, that next sighted new moon starts the new month & new year.
These verses tell us when to start the 1st month of the year.

Next God commands us to kill & eat the Passover lambs.
This is commanded to be done on month 1, day 14:

Exodus 12:6

You shall keep it until **the fourteenth day** of the same month,
then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to **kill it at twilight**.

The word “**twilight**” is from the Hebrew word – ערב
Strong's# 6153 eh'-reb - dusk:--+ day, even(-ing, tide), night.

“*Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*” commentary defines
“**twilight**” in Exodus 12:6 as “**between noon & sunset**”.
From this we understand that the Passover lambs are killed
between noon & sunset - just as Jesus was killed at 3pm.

Exodus 12:42

It is **a night to be observed** for Yehovah*
for having brought them out from the land of Egypt;
this night is for Yehovah*, **to be observed**
by all the sons of Israel throughout their generations.

Luke 2:42

And when He became twelve,
they went up there according to the **custom** of the Feast;

The above verses plainly show Passover takes place on the
14th day of month 1 – Aviv, approaching the end of that day.
The meal continues (after sunset) right into the 15th day.
To **observe** an appointment is to **keep it** at the set time.
Yeshua kept the Passover according to this proper custom.
“Throughout their generations” includes even *THIS* generation.

John 19:14 (CEV)

It was **about noon** on the day **before** Passover,
and Pilate said to the crowd, "Look at your king!"

This occurred after the meal, the arrest & **before** Passover.
John was at the Last Supper and **never once** calls it “Passover”.
The Last Supper was the night before Passover. It's that simple.

Could Jesus change Passover?

Chapter 4

If the Lords Supper is a *new* Passover, then Jesus was a false prophet. God commands us not to listen to false prophets:

Deuteronomy 13:1-4

“1 “If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,’ 3 **you shall not listen to the words of that prophet** or that dreamer of dreams; for Yehovah* your God is testing you to find out if you love Yehovah* your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 **“You shall follow Yehovah* your God** and fear Him; **and you shall keep His commandments**, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.

The date was changed by 24 hours. The bread was changed from unleavened to leavened bread. The clothing was changed from traveling clothes to “girding oneself with a towel”. Many believe a *new commandment* of washing feet was added. Logic shouts that the Last Supper wasn't Passover at all! So...

What was the LAST SUPPER?

If it wasn't Passover, and wasn't some type of a “*new*” Passover – then what **was** this “Last Supper”? Isn't it strange that none of the disciples asked Yeshua why they were having this meal *the night before* Passover? Two disciples were even sent ahead to get things ready. Apparently this meal was nothing out of the ordinary – as two disciples even knew how to prepare for it. So what's the deal with the Last Supper?

John 19:14 (AMP)

Now it was **the day of Preparation** for the Passover, and it was about the sixth hour (about twelve o'clock noon). He said to the Jews, See, [here is] your King!

Yeshua died the afternoon immediately following the Last Supper. It was **the day of preparation** for the Passover. On the **preparation day** one prepares for an appointment with God. The 6th day is the preparation day for the weekly Sabbath. Biblical time reckoning starts days at sunset the evening prior.

Deuteronomy 16:5-6a (NKJV)

5 **“You may not sacrifice the Passover within any of your gates** which Yehovah* your God gives you; 6 **but at the place where Yehovah* your God chooses** to make His name abide, there you shall sacrifice the Passover at twilight,

This commandment requires people to **come out of their homes** & keep the Passover at the place God chooses. The Last Supper is a New Testament example of this Torah instruction being followed to the letter. The men moved into this room for the Passover near sunset on **the preparation day** for the Passover. The Last Supper was eaten the night before Passover. The disciples were obeying Torah by coming out of the world and going to the place God chooses (Jerusalem) – to keep Passover. They did this on the beginning of the preparation day for the Passover – near sunset. Given the disciples lack of surprise, this was an expected annual event. This preparation day started with a meal – the last meal they shared before Yeshua died.

If we are able to separate ourselves from our “western gentile mentality”, then Passover and the Last Supper show us a Torah observant Jesus faithful even to death. Contradictions begin dissipating as scriptures now line up, enlightening Gods Word to our understanding - showing us the simple truth.

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Chapter 5

We now know it is Biblically *illegal* to “add to” or “take from” Gods Torah. But we have always been taught Jesus brought a “NEW” covenant. If He brought a new covenant – then isn't this a contradiction? Didn't Yeshua give a “new” commandment too? Was Yeshua the Messiah or some kind of a super false prophet? Let's read Gods Word and find out:

Is there a “NEW” COVENANT?

1 Corinthians 11:25

In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying,
"This cup is the **new** covenant in My blood;
do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The word **new** in this verse is a Greek word:

Strong's #2537 – **kainos** - new (especially in freshness; while Strong's #3501 is properly so with respect to age:--new.

Strong's Concordance is telling us **kainos** means “refreshed”. The proper Greek word for “new” (as in “brand new”) is the Strong's #3501 - **neos** – a primary Greek word meaning “new”.

Read that verse again – this time correcting the word “**kainos**”:

1 Corinthians 11:25

In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying,
"This cup is the **renewed** covenant in My blood;
do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Was there any “new” commandment Jesus gave his disciples?

John 1 3:34

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

The word **new** in this verse is again the Greek word **kainos**: Strong's #2537 – **kainos** - new (especially in freshness;) So...

John 1 3:34

"A renewed commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

For this command & covenant to be “renewed”, there must be an *original* command & covenant:

Leviticus 19:17-18

'You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, **but you shall love your neighbor as yourself**: I am Yehovah*.

Exodus 24:7

Then he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, "All that Yehovah* has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!"

Luke 4:4 (NKJV)

But Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, ‘*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.*’”

The promises made by our forefathers was to obey **ALL** Yehovah had spoken to Moyses. This is MUCH MORE than just the 10 commandments. See **Exodus 21-23**. Our ancestors broke these commandments and were divorced from Yehovah. These peoples, now scattered throughout the world, can return to God through the sacrifice of Messiah. The new covenant is not new at all, but a **renewing** of the promises made years ago – to those that will keep covenant with God today.

Could Jesus change Passover?

Chapter 6

Now it's time to get just a bit personal. We all approach God from a slightly different background. We each carry different baggage with us in our walk in life. This question I must ask you now is very personal, but I feel that by now we have come to know each other a little bit better. I hope this isn't too forward of me to ask, but...

When was the last time
someone WASHED YOUR FEET?

John 13:12-17

12 So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined *at the table* again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? **13** “You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. **14** “If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. **15** “For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. **16** “Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor *is* one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. **17** “If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

From a casual read it appears that we now have **a new commandment** by Jesus to wash each others feet once a year. To a Torah ignoramus this makes perfect sense. The problem is you are no longer Torah ignoramuses. You now know that if Yeshua “added to” or “took from” Gods Torah in any way then He would be guilty of BREAKING Torah – and disqualified from being the Messiah. So what was Yeshua showing us to do?

The context of **John 13:12-17** is the Last Supper. We know from the accounts of this meal that it included a lively argument about which disciple was going to be the '**top dog**'. They were arguing over who was going to be the "GREATEST".

What Yeshua did next was show them by an example that was commonplace at that time – how to lead as He leads. He showed them by assuming the role of the lowest servant in a home at that time – a foot washer. This was normally the job of a young servant and considered one of the lowest jobs to be done in a home. It was done for visiting dignified guests of importance.

So WHEN was the last time someone washed your feet when you visited them? Hasn't happened for a while? It hasn't happened because that is not part of our culture – **we don't do that here!** Yeshua was not adding a "new" command to wash feet – you understand now that is Biblically illegal. He was giving His men "an EXAMPLE". Today the equivalent "example" would be to take out the trash, scrub the washtub or clean the toilet. If you want to be leaders in Gods Kingdom, then you must be willing to serve Gods people. You must be willing to throw off all self pretentious man made titles, roll up your sleeves and grab the toilet brush – without looking for any reward or acknowledgment from any man or organization.

The bread & wine fit the same basic idea. These are common food items that were available at that time when people sat down to eat. Today **as often as** two or more keeping covenant with God are gathered together, it is appropriate to pray, including a blessing on the bread & wine acknowledging the broken body & shed blood in remembrance of Yeshua.

Could Jesus change Passover?

Chapter 7

My hope in taking time to write this short booklet is that you have learned some fundamental truths about Gods Word. We all approach the Bible with preconceived notions. Many of these ideas are incorrect. Let's ask one more question:

Why did Jesus DIE?

Let's not assume we know this answer. See if just maybe our preconceived notions to this question are incorrect as well.

John 10:11

I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd **lays down His life for the sheep**.

Jesus is that good shepherd... but WHO are these sheep?

Psalm 78:52

But He led forth His own people like **sheep**
And guided them in *the wilderness* like **a flock**;

The “sheep” Yeshua is referring to are His people – Israel.

Psalm 78:43 shows this verse speaking of Israel in Egypt.

Israel now is a scattered people because of bad leaders.

This includes both selfish **religious** & **political** leaders.

Eze kiel 34:2

"Son of man, prophesy against **the shepherds of Israel**.
Prophesy and say to those shepherds, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,
"Woe, shepherds of Israel **who have been feeding themselves!**
Should not the shepherds feed the flock?

One does not have to search very far to find religious leaders that have lined their pockets with the Levite Tithe – while they themselves in no way live as Levites – buying vacation homes, sports cars and even squandering money on sexual sins. Political leaders often seem to fall into these very same traps.

Israel today consists of a Southern House – the Jews of today, and a Northern House – a large scattered group of people that most likely are unaware of their Israelite heritage. This second category can be identified:

John 10:16

I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and **they will hear My voice**; and they will become one flock with one shepherd.

This scattered Northern House **hears the voice** of Yeshua. “Christianity” today believes in Jesus and many are of that scattered Northern House. That's the reason Yeshua died...

John 10:17

For **this reason** the Father loves Me, because I **lay down My life** so that I may take it again.

Yeshua laid down his life so the scattered Northern House of Israel could return to the land of Israel and the 2 houses of Israel could be REUNITED under the soon returning Messiah! This *includes* the forgiving of all past individual & collective sins.



Jewish tradition tells us the most perfect lamb each year was the last lamb – picked & sacrificed by the Jewish High Priest. This followed the sacrificing of thousands of lambs each year.

This last lamb was the pinnacle of each passover season.

Upon sacrificing this last and most perfect Passover lamb, the High Priest traditionally shouted at the top of his lungs -

“IT IS FINISHED!”